



**STRAIGHT
ARROW**

**DURANGO
KID**

**TIM
HOLT**

GHOST RIDER

**BEST
WEST**

No. 6

THE 6th BIG ISSUE OF-

10¢

BEST of the WEST





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the DURANGO KID

WHEN THIS GUNSLICK
BROOD MOVES INTO ACTION, TERROR
GRIPS THE TOWN, SIX-GUNS HOWL
A DIRGE OF DEATH, THE LEAD FALLS
THICK AS RAIN, AND
THE DURANGO KID
JUST

"CAN'T SEE FOR
GUNSMOKE!"



SATURDAY NIGHT AND THE JOINT IS JUMPIN'!



THE STREETS ARE NOT SAFE FOR
ANY DECENT CITIZEN! TERROR RULES
THE TOWN!



BUT-SOME HONEST CITIZENS HAVE GATHERED
IN THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE...

SOMETHING'S GOT TO BE DONE
ABOUT THE WAY HANDSOME JACK
AND HIS GUNSLICKS RULE
THIS TOWN!

RIGHT, STEVE! THIS
TOWN'S GOT TO BE
MADE A SAFE PLACE
FOR OUR WIVES AND
KIDS.

BUT WHO'LL
DO IT? THEY'RE
KILLERS EVERY
ONE O'THEM!

I'VE RISKED MUH NECK A
DOZEN TIMES TRYIN' TUH
TAME 'EM DOWN. THREE
OTHER LAWMEN BEFORE HE
WERE MURDERED!



RUSSELL'S

HYBRID

POP CORN



HIT'S BEST TOO
MUCH FER ME, GENTS.
I'M A-GITTIN' **OLD**
AN' I AIN'T AS SPRY
AS I USED TO BE!

WE NEED A
YOUNG MAN WITH
A STRONG HEART
AN' A FAST GUN.
THET'S WHUT.

SWEAR ME IN AS
DEPUTY, SHERIFF! I'LL
TAKE ON THE
JOB!

I WUZ HOPIN'
YUH'D SAY THET
STEVE! IF
ANYBODY KIN DO
IT, YOU KIN!

YUH
KIN
COUNT
ON US,
BRAND!

RIGHT!
WE'LL
BACK
YORE
PLAYS!



LATER THAT NIGHT - THE BATWINGS OF HANDSOME
JACK'S SALOON FLY OPEN AND...

QUIET! NOW
LISTEN TO ME, YOU

WILD RANNIHANS! FROM NOW ON,
EVERYBODY CHECKS HIS GUN AT THE BAR. STARTING
TONIGHT I'M CLOSING UP THIS SALOON AT MIDNIGHT
EVERY NIGHT - GET IT?



WAL, LOOKIT WHO PUT
ON A DEPUTY'S TIN BADGE!
I THINK I'LL JEST **EAT**
THET BADGE - AN' THUH
TIN HORN LAWMAN,
TOO!

YEAH, LOOK WHO'S
GIVIN' ORDERS!
COME ON, MEN -
LET'S MOVE IN
ON 'IM!

YUH
AIN'T
TALKIN'
OUR
LINGO,
MISTER!



THAT SO? IS
THIS YOUR LINGO,
HOMBRE?



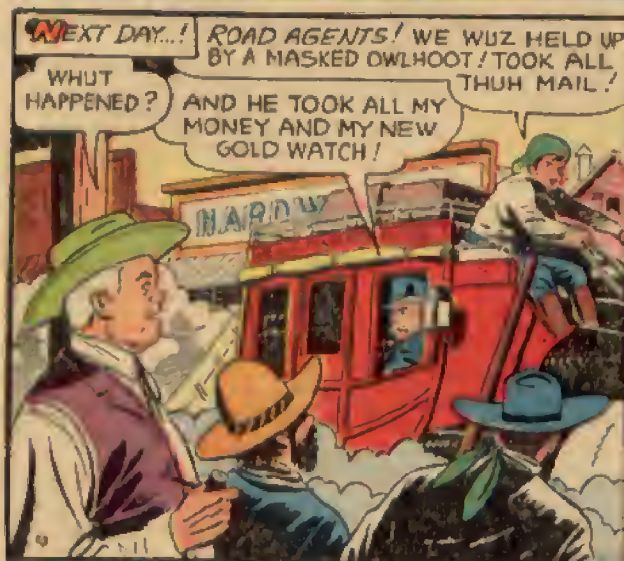


LOOKS LIKE WE'RE BEAT, HANDSOME JACK.

I AIN'T BEAT YET! I'LL WIN BACK THIS TOWN PRONTO! FIRST THING IS TUH **GIT** THET DEPUTY, STEVE BRAND...!



...AN' HYAR'S HOW - TOMORROW, THE MAIL STAGE IS BRINGING IN THUH DISTRICT JUDGE ...



NEXT DAY...
WHUT HAPPENED?

ROAD AGENTS! WE WUZZ HELD UP BY A MASKED OWLHOOT! TOOK ALL THUH MAIL!
AND HE TOOK ALL MY MONEY AND MY NEW GOLD WATCH!



WHUT'LL I SAY LET'S CALL A MEETING OF THE WE DO, CITIZEN'S COMMITTEE PRONTO. STEVE? WE'VE GOT TO FIGURE OUT A PLAN TO CATCH THAT ROAD AGENT!

SLICK! HE NEVER EVEN FELT IT!

IN A MATTER OF MINUTES, THE MEMBERS OF THE CITIZEN'S COMMITTEE CROWD INTO THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE...

THIS STAGE-ROBBERING HAS GOT TO BE NIPPED RIGHT NOW, BEFORE IT SPREADS! MY HUNCH IS THAT HANDSOME JACK KNOWS MORE ABOUT IT THAN HELL ADMIT...



THET'S A LIE!
IT'S HANDSOME JACK! LET'S SEE WHUT STEVE'S GOT TUH SAY TUH THIS!



I KNOW YORE GAME NOW, STEVE BRAND! YUH'RE GITTING THUH TOWN HOPPED UP AGIN ME JEST TUH COVER UP YORE OWN ROTTEN THIEVIN'! I'M BETTIN' YOU ROBBERED THET STAGE! I DARE YUH TUH TURN YORE POCKETS INSIDE OUT!





I'LL TAKE THAT DARE, JACK - JEST TO SHOW YOU TAKE A LOOK - WHAT THE...? WHAT'S THIS?

HEY! THAT'S MY NEW GOLD WATCH!



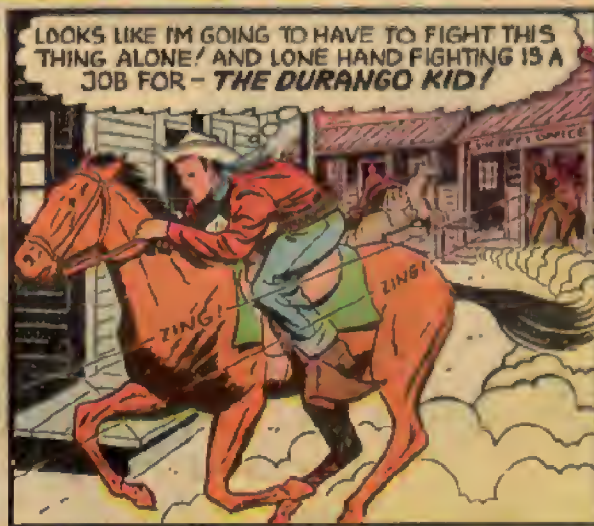
GOLLY, I JEST WOULDN'T'VE BELIEVED IT UNLESS I SAW IT WITH MUH OWN EYES!

HE SHORE PLAYED IT SLICK - EVERYBODY TRUSTED IM!

I AINT NEVER DONE ANYTHIN' SADDER IN MUH DAYS AS SHERIFF - BUT I'M CLAPPIN' YUH BEHIND BARS, STEVE BRAND!



IT'S A CINCH I CAN'T DO ANYTHING ABOUT THIS BEHIND BARS! OUT OF MY WAY, GENTLEMEN!



LOOKS LIKE I'M GOING TO HAVE TO FIGHT THIS THING ALONE! AND LONE HAND FIGHTING IS A JOB FOR - THE DURANGO KID!

LATE THAT NIGHT...HANDSOME JACK'S SLEEP IS RUDELY INTERRUPTED...

WHUT-WHU-WHU - THUH DURANGO KID!
YOU'RE NOT DREAMING, HANDSOME JACK! GET YOUR PANTS ON AND START MOVING - WE'VE GOT PLACES TO GO!



YOUR BODYGUARDS WERE VERY OBLIGING, JACK, AS YOU CAN SEE. YOU AND I ARE GOING TO OPEN YOUR SAFE, HANDSOME JACK - AND I'M BETTING WE FIND THE STOLEN MAIL IN IT!



BUT - AT THAT MOMENT...

GOLLY, I JEST CAIN'T SLEEP, THINKIN' 'BOUT HOW STEVE BRAND PULLED THUH WOOL OVER MUH EYES. BUT - MEBBE - MEBBE - NAW, OH SHUCKS! HEY, WHUTS THET LIGHT IN THE BACK ROOM O' THUH SALOON...?



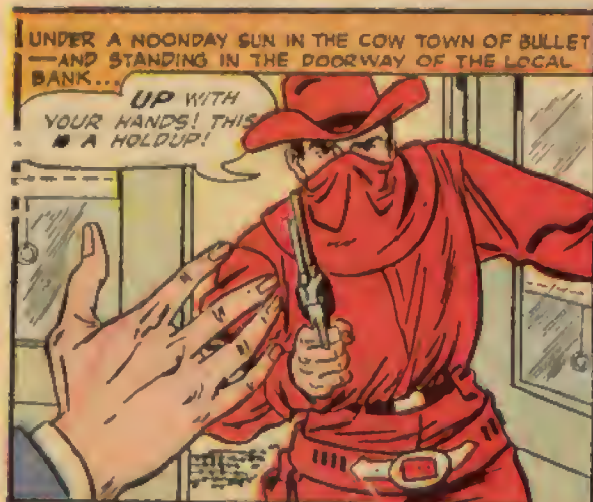




TIM HOLT

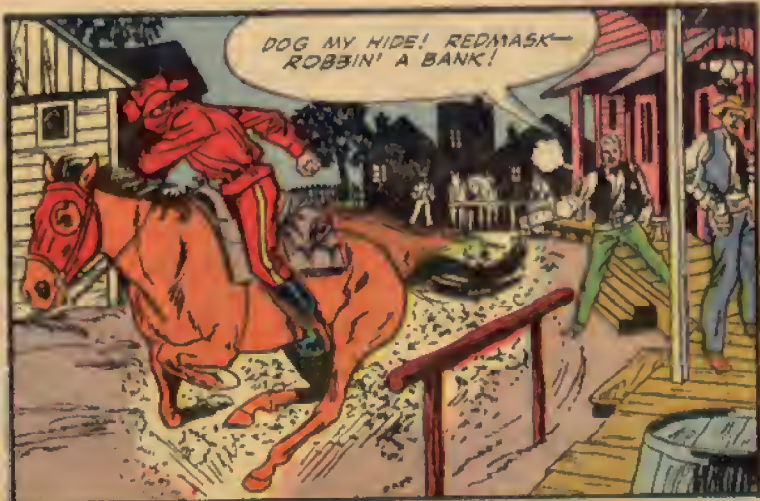
REDMASK—A BANDIT?
REDMASK—WANTED FOR
ROBBERY AND MURDER?
 THAT WAS THE NEWS THAT SWEEPED
 THE COUNTRY FROM BULLET TO
 THE BRAZOS! AND THE CRIMSON
 CAVALIER FLED FOR HIS LIFE
 FROM POSSE BULLETS, SEEKING
 SAFETY IN—

"HELL'S HIDEOUT!"





I'VE BEEN A FOOL! TIME I REALIZED A MAN CAN MAKE MORE BY ROBBING BANKS THAN BY DEFENDING THEM!



DOG MY HIDE! REDMASK—ROBBIN' A BANK!



ARMED MEN GATHER AT THE SHERIFF'S SHOUT...

COME ON, BOYS! HE WON'T GIT FAR! WE CAN CATCH HIM IN NO TIME AT ALL!

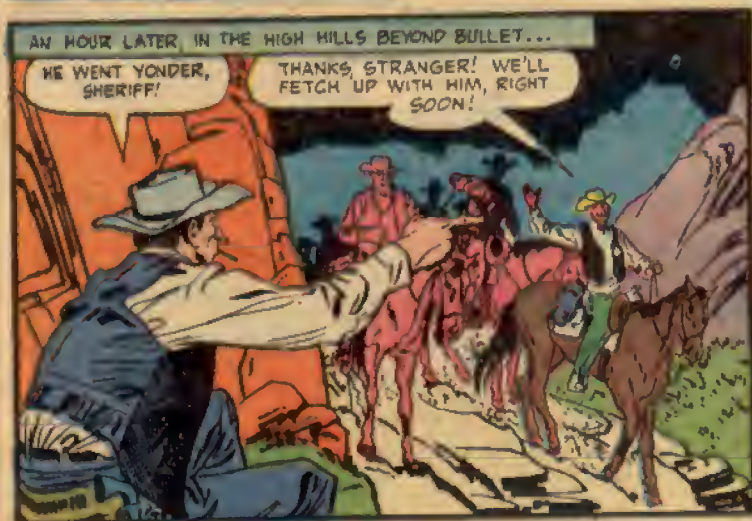


ON THE WOODEN SLATS OF A BOARD SIDEWALK, A SCAR-FACED MAN CHUCKLES TO HIMSELF—

THEY'LL NEVER CATCH HIM! NOT WITH THAT BIG, FAST BRONC!



BUT I CAN CATCH HIM—AND GIVE HIM THE BEST NEWS HE'S EVER HAD!



AN HOUR LATER, IN THE HIGH HILLS BEYOND BULLET...

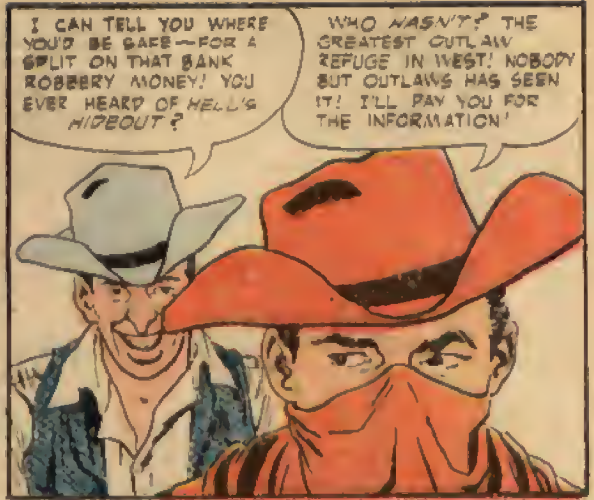
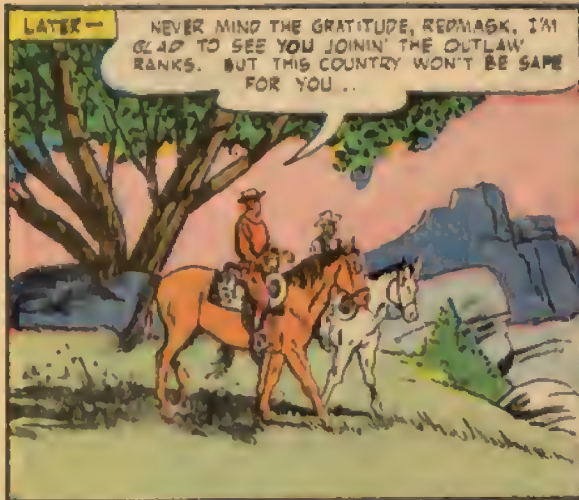
HE WENT YONDER, SHERIFF!

THANKS, STRANGER! WE'LL FETCH UP WITH HIM, RIGHT SOON!



ON A ROCKY LEDGE ABOVE THE TRAIL...

SO! LOOKS LIKE I OWE THAT SCARFACE HOMBRE A NOD OF THANKS FOR MISDIRECTING THE POSSE!



FOR TWO DAYS REDMASK TRAVELS THE BACK TRAILS THAT FORM THE OUTLAW ROADS.



INSIDE THE OLD STONE WALL, REDMASK COMES FACE TO FACE WITH THE DON, THE MAN WHO RUNS THE HIDEOUT...

REDMASK!
WELCOME TO
HELL'S
HIDEOUT!

NO MORE
WELCOME
THAN YOU ARE
TO ME!



ON A TOUR OF THE
BATTLEMENTS —

WE ARE ABLE TO
DEFEND OURSELVES
AGAINST AN ARMY!

IT IS A GOOD
THING TO KNOW —
FOR ME AND THE
OTHER HOMBRES
I'VE BEEN TAKING
REFUGE WITH
YOU!



THERE ARE OUTLAWS AND KILLERS
HERE WHO ARE WANTED IN A DOZEN
STATES AND TERRITORIES...



CURLY BILL
TASCOSA,
WANTED FOR
MURDER

ARIZONA JAKE
WANTED FOR
ROBBERY AND
MURDER.

LEFTY FARNUM, STAGECOACH ROBBER

MEANWHILE, IN BULLET —

BOYS, I WANT TO THANK YOU
FOR ACTIN' OUT THAT LITTLE
FARCE WITH REDMASK AND
ME! THE BANK'LL GET ITS
MONEY BACK — SOON AS
REDMASK LEARNS WHERE
HELL'S HIDEOUT IS!

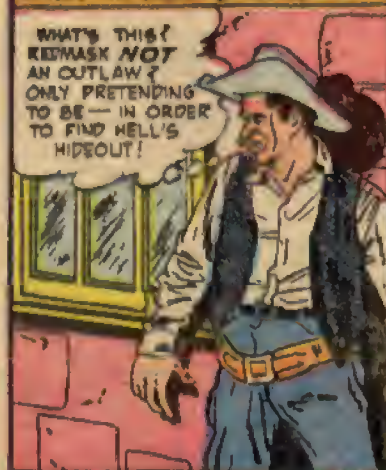


WE BEEN TRYIN' TO FIND THAT
PLACE FOR YEARS. ROBBERS AND
KILLERS HIDE OUT THERE, AND WE
CAN'T FIND 'EM. ONCE WE CLEAN
IT UP, IT'LL CUT DOWN CRIME
CONSIDERABLE AROUND THESE
PARTS! REDMASK AND ME
DECIDED HE'D ACT OUT AS AN
OUTLAW, AND TRY TO LOCATE
IT!



OUTSIDE THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE —

WHAT'S THIS?
REDMASK NOT
AN OUTLAW?
ONLY PRETENDING
TO BE — IN ORDER
TO FIND HELL'S
HIDEOUT!



IT WAS ME THAT
SENT HIM THERE! I
GOT TO GET WORD
TO THE DON! HE'LL
KNOW WHAT TO DO
TO HIM...



HOURS LATER, IN THE STONE-WALLED ROOMS OF HELL'S HIDEOUT...



WITH THE SPEED OF A JAGUAR,
REDMASK LEAPS FOR A
DANGLING ROPE...



JUST AS FOUR ARMS CLOSE ABOUT
HIS LEGS...



REDMASK FALLS—AND AS HE TUMBLES
DOWN, A COLT SIXGUN BARREL
CRACKS ACROSS HIS FACE.



SOMEWHAT LATER, REDMASK OPENS DAZED EYES INSIDE A GREAT IRON
CAGE—

YOU WILL DIE SLOWLY, REDMASK—
SUSPENDED IN THAT CAGE IN THE FLOWING
WATERS OF THIS UNDERGROUND RIVER!
YOU FOUND HELL'S HIDEOUT... I SHALL
SEE THAT YOU STAY HERE—FOREVER!



STEADILY, WITH TORTURING SLOWNESS, THE CHAIN LOWERS THE CAGE INTO THE WATER...



THEN THE CAGE DISAPPEARS! BUT UNDER WATER, REDMASK'S HANDS MOVE SWIFTLY...



THE FRENCH DETECTIVE OF THE SURETE WHO TAUGHT ME MUCH OF THE NEW TECHNIQUE OF FIGHTING CRIME WITH SCIENCE, ALSO SHOWED ME WAYS OF CONCEALING KEYS AND POWDERS — THAT COME IN HANDY WHEN NEEDED!



HOURS LATER, IN BULLET—

GET YOUR MEN TOGETHER, SHERIFF! I'LL LEAD YOU TO HELL'S HIDEOUT!

I KNEW YOU'D DO IT, REDMASK!



BUT, IN THE HIDEOUT ITSELF, REDMASK'S ESCAPE IS SOON DISCOVERED...

REDMASK WILL BRING A POSSE HERE!

LET HIM! YOU FORGOTTEN OUR SPECIAL DEFENSES? I HAVEN'T— AND REDMASK DOESN'T KNOW ABOUT THEM!

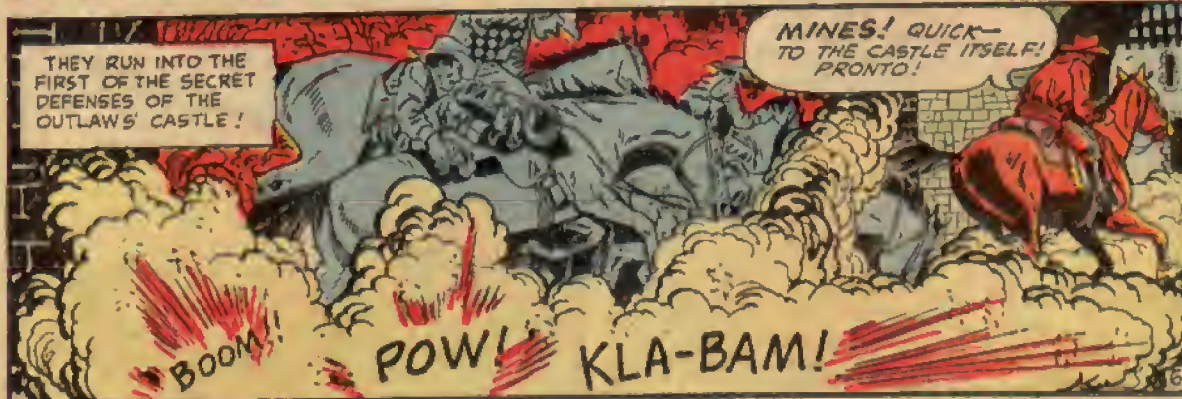


AND SO, AS REDMASK BRINGS SHERIFF GAGE AND HIS POSSE TO THE HIDEOUT COURTYARD—



THEY RUN INTO THE FIRST OF THE SECRET DEFENSES OF THE OUTLAWS' CASTLE!

MINES! QUICK— TO THE CASTLE ITSELF! PRONTO!



BOOM!

POW!

KLA-BAM!

Yiii! AAAGGH!

-COUGH!
-COUGH!

- KANE -

AND THAT'S TO STOP THIS WHERE
IT STARTS — IN THE CONTROL
ROOM THAT CAUSES ALL THIS
TO HAPPEN!

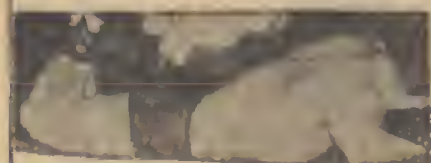
IN A FEW MOMENTS, THE KILLERS SURRENDER! IN HANDCUFFS THEY ARE LED FROM THEIR HIDEOUT, TO WATCH IT DISAPPEAR FOREVER FROM THE FACE OF THE EARTH...

IT WAS DYNAMITE TO US WHILE IT EXISTED, AND DYNAMITE FINISHED IT OFF!

THE END

IT WAS DYNAMITE
TO US WHILE IT
EXISTED, AND
DYNAMITE
FINISHED IT
OFF!

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the GHOST RIDER



AT FIRST NOBODY COULD BELIEVE IT — BUT HE KEPT RIDING OUT OF THE NIGHT, **NOT** TO COMBAT EVIL — BUT TO KIDNAP INNOCENT MEN! ENRAGED, THE SHERIFF FORMED AN ARMED-TO-THE-TEETH POSSE THAT WAS PLEDGED NOT TO REST UNTIL THEY'D KILLED THE

"Ghost Rider
GONE BAD!"

ABOVE, A FULL MOON SILVERED THE WESTERN SKY — BELOW, MURDEROUS HOOPS THUNDER FORWARD — AND A DOOMED MAN CRIES SHRILLY —

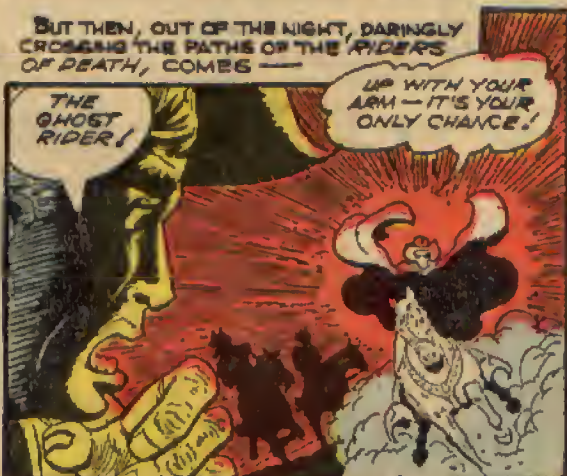


THE BLACK HATS!
NO! NO!

EVIL SMILES TWIST THE HORSEMEN'S LIPS AS THEIR MOUNTS KEEP CHARGING FORWARD —



BUT THEN, OUT OF THE NIGHT, DARINGLY CROSSING THE PATHS OF THE RIDERS OF DEATH, COMES —



THE
GHOST
RIDER!

UP WITH YOUR
ARM — IT'S YOUR
ONLY CHANCE!



MADE IT!

BUT THE CLIFF — WE'RE GOING OVER THE CLIFF!

AIEEEE!

THE BLACK-HATTED RIDERS SLOW DOWN TO A WALK. THEY SMILE VENEMOUSLY, REMEMBERING THEIR VICTIM AND HIS FOOLHARDY WOULD-BE RESCUER GOING OVER THE CLIFF, STILL SMILING, THEY DISAPPEAR INTO THE NIGHT —



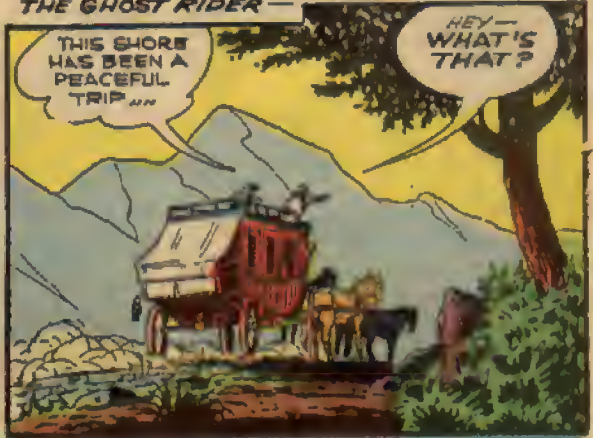
BUT BELOW, SPECTRE HAS PROVED HIMSELF ONCE AGAIN TO BE A WONDER HORSE!



W-WE'RE STILL ALIVE!

WELL DONE, NOBLE STEED!

THE NIGHT PASSES... AND THEN THE DAY... AND NOW BEGINS THAT STRANGE SERIES OF EVENTS THAT WILL TURN THE WHOLE COMMUNITY AGAINST THE GHOST RIDER —



THIS SHORE HAS BEEN A PEACEFUL TRIP...

HEY — WHAT'S THAT?



IT'S THUH GHOST RIDER!

WH-WHUT D'YUH WANT WITH US, GHOST RIDER? WE AIN'T DONE A THING...



I SEEK ONE OF YOUR PASSAGERS — ANTON NOVACK! OUT OF MY WAY, VARLETS!

HE'S INSIDE — MAN WITH THUH CHECKED SHIRT...

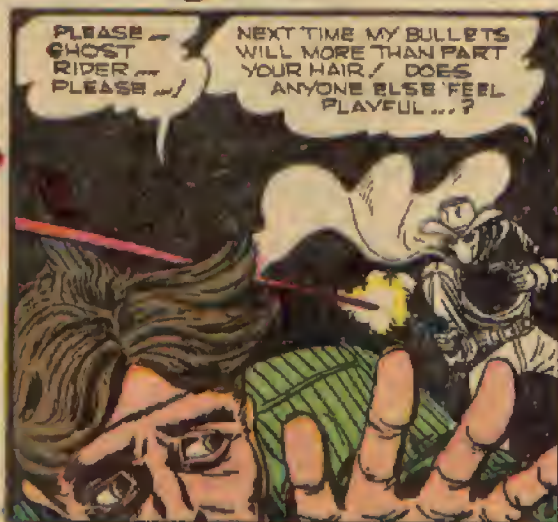
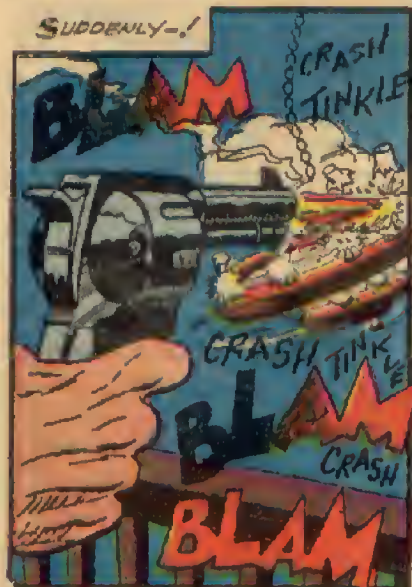


ANTON NOVACK — COME WITH ME!

BUT, MR. GHOST RIDER — I HAVE NOT DONE ANYTHING WRONG!

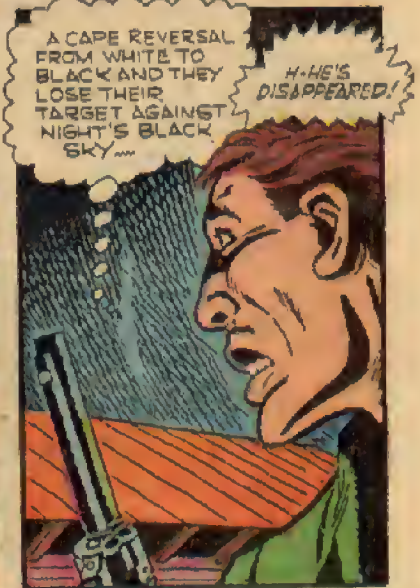


A WEEK HAS PASSED SINCE ANTON NOVACK WAS SPIRITED AWAY. THE NOVACK FAMILY IS FRANTIC... BUT THERE HAS BEEN NO WORD FROM THE GHOST RIDER... SATURDAY NIGHT COMES— AND IN THE LAST RIDE DANCE HALL, BUSINESS GOES ON AS USUAL —

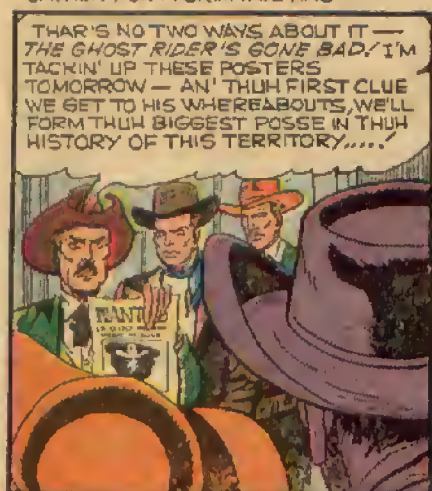




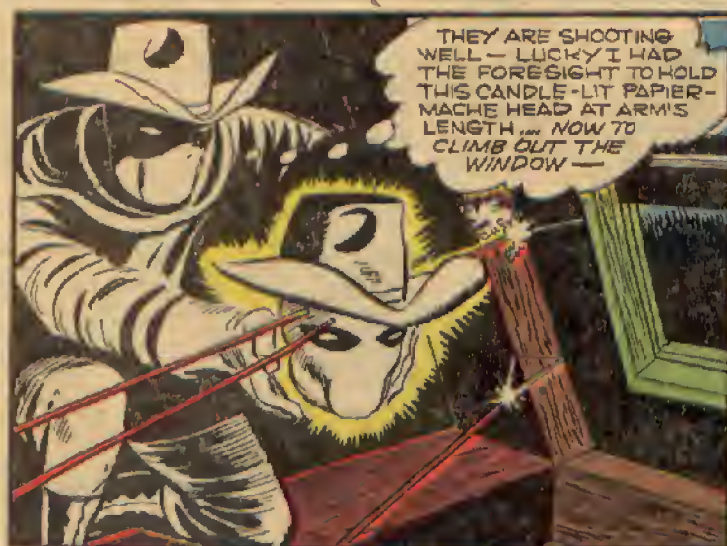
THE GHOST RIDER — A KIDNAPPER...? "NO," EVERYBODY SAYS HOPEFULLY, "NO — IT MUST BE A CRAZY PRANK!" BUT ONE WEEK LATER, AT MARTIN HALEK'S RANCH —



THE NEXT NIGHT, MANY ANGRY MEN
GATHER FOR A GRIM MEETING —

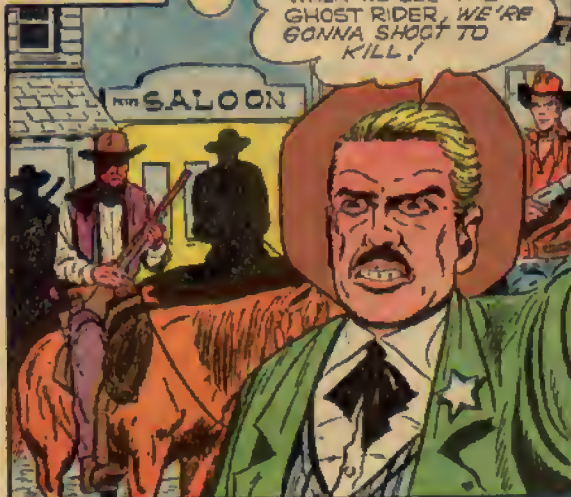


SUDDENLY THE HALL IS FILLED WITH HIDEOUS LAUGHTER —



A SHORT
TIME LATER—

EVERYBODY MAKE SURE
YOUR GUNS ARE LOADED.
WHEN WE SEE THE
GHOST RIDER, WE'RE
GONNA SHOOT TO
KILL!



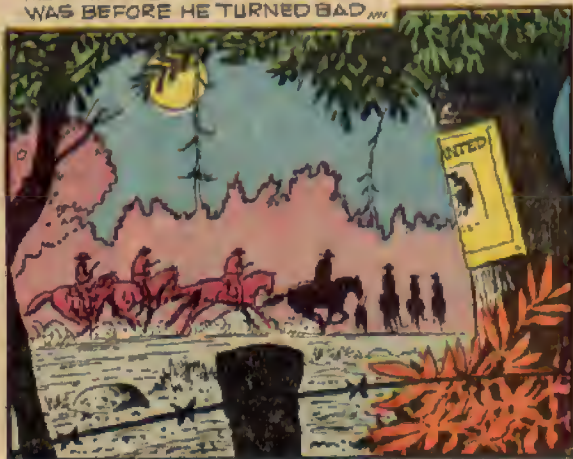
MEANWHILE, FAR AHEAD, OTHER
RIDERS ARE APPROACHING ECHO
VALLEY!



WHIRLING LIKE GREASED LIGHTNING, SLASHING
THE AIR WITH HIS BLACK WHIP, THE GHOST
RIDER DISARMS THE MYSTERIOUS KILLERS—!



AND SO THE POSSE THUNDERS AWAY INTO THE
NIGHT— BUT WITH HEAVY HEARTS. FOR THE
MEN CANNOT FORGET THE GHOST RIDER AS HE
WAS BEFORE HE TURNED BAD...



SUDDENLY—!

AT LAST—
THE BLACK
HATS!



BUT WITHOUT THE ELEMENT OF SURPRISE, THE
ODDS ARE HEAVY AGAINST THE GHOST RIDER.
HIS ADVERSARIES BEGIN CLOSING IN...

KNIVES... I DID
NOT KNOW THEY
CARRIED KNIVES...





A SMOKE BOMB — AND A QUICK CLIMB UP THE ROPE I SWUNG DOWN ON — AND THE VILLAINS ARE MYSTIFIED!



I'LL ROLL THESE BOULDERS DOWN — BLOCK THE ENTRANCE TO THE CANYON — SO THEY WON'T BE ABLE TO ESCAPE...



MY GUN BELT — TORE LOOSE!



CAN'T MOVE — MY ANKLE'S TWISTED...



AT THAT MOMENT —!

WE ARE HERE, GHOST RIDER! YOU SAVED OUR LIVES — AND NOW WE SHALL SAVE YOURS!

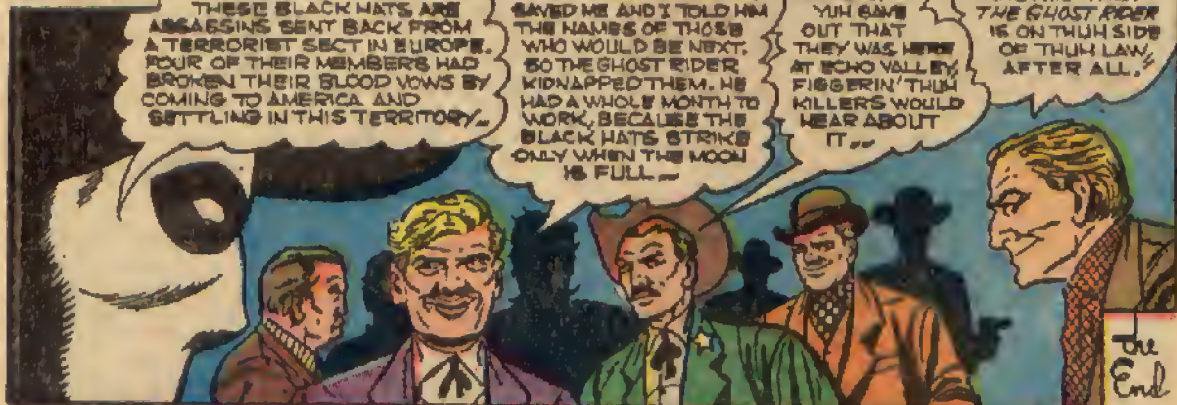
AFTER THE POSSE ARRIVES —

SORRY I FOOLED YOU, SHERIFF — BUT I HAD TO MAKE IT LOOK GOOD... THESE BLACK HATS ARE ASSASSINS SENT BACK FROM A TERRORIST SECT IN EUROPE. FOUR OF THEIR MEMBERS HAD BROKEN THEIR BLOOD VOWS BY COMING TO AMERICA AND SETTLING IN THIS TERRITORY...


I WAS THE FIRST THEY TRIED TO KILL! THE GHOST RIDER SAVED ME AND I TOLD HIM THE NAMES OF THOSE WHO WOULD BE NEXT. SO THE GHOST RIDER KIDNAPPED THEM. HE HAD A WHOLE MONTH TO WORK, BECAUSE THE BLACK HATS STRIKE ONLY WHEN THE MOON IS FULL...

I GOT IT, GHOST RIDER. YUH SAID OUT THAT THEY WAS HERE AT ECHO VALLEY. FISSERIN' THUN KILLERS WOULD HEAR ABOUT IT...

GOSH, IT SURE IS WONDERFUL KNOWN! THAT THE GHOST RIDER IS ON THUN SIDE OF THUN LAW AFTER ALL.



The End



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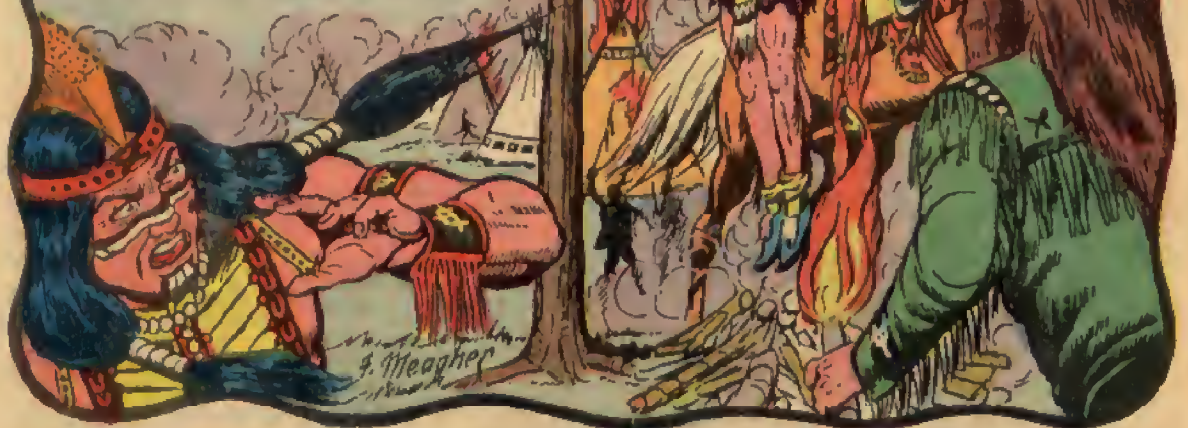
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STRAIGHT ARROW

BEAR CLAW WAS A GREAT HUNTER AMONG THE COMANCHE PEOPLE. WHEN HE POINTED HIS ORANGEWOOD BOW AT A DEER OR A HARE, THAT ANIMAL DIED!

BUT THERE IS ONE THING WRONG WITH **BEAR CLAW** AS A HUNTER — AS **STRAIGHT ARROW** IS TO TEACH HIM WHEN HE ORDERS HIM TO SMASH HIS MOST PRIZED POSSESSION — **"THE BOW OF BEAR CLAW!"**



BEAR CLAW CAN STAND TWO HUNDRED FEET FROM A FEEDING ELK AND FELL HIM WITH A SINGLE ARROW!



HIS SHAFTS FIND MEAT WHERE ONLY ONE OTHER COMANCHE DARES GO!

STRAIGHT ARROW!

THE TRIBE EATS WELL, **BEAR CLAW**, WITH YOU AS ITS HUNTER!



ONLY MY ORANGEWOOD BOW COULD HAVE BROUGHT DOWN SUCH MEAT. WITHOUT IT, I AM HELPLESS.

IT IS A GOOD BOW, BEAR CLAW— BUT **ONLY** A BOW!



IN CAMP, AFTER THE HUNTERS HAVE TURNED OVER THE GAME TO THE WOMEN—

HAI—YOU'RE FALLING!

MY ANKLE! I TWISTED IT, BACK ON THOSE HIGH ROCKS. IT HAS SWOLLEN!



NEXT DAY, AS THE COMANCHE WARRIORS RIDE FORTH ON THE WARPATH AGAINST A BAND OF RAIDING UTE...

MY ANKLE IS SO SWOLLEN, I CANNOT RIDE WITH THEM!

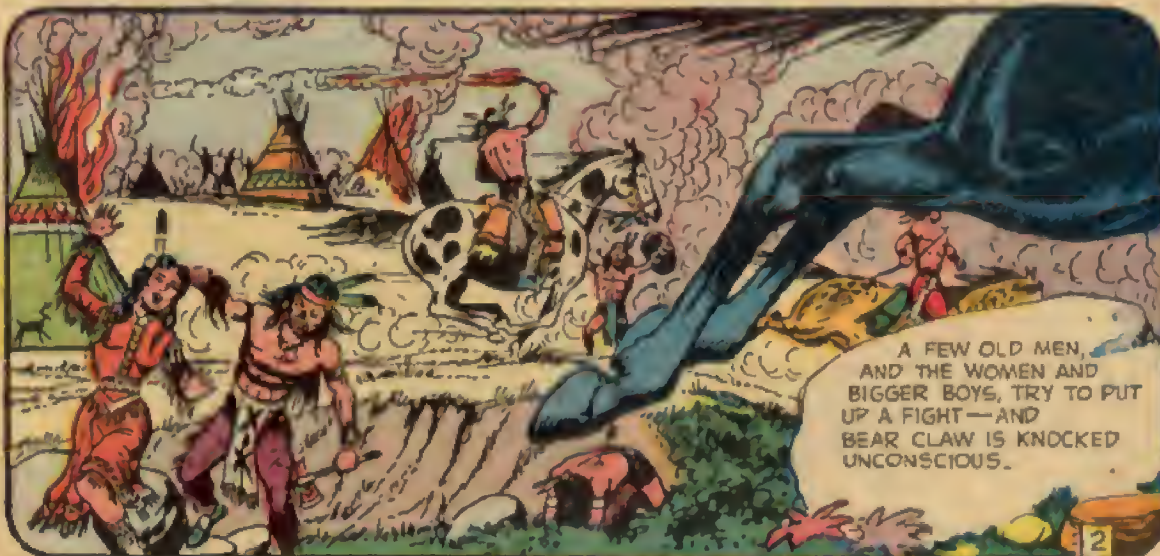


OTHER EYES THAN THOSE OF BEAR CLAW WATCH THE WAR PARTY FILE OUT INTO THE HILLS—

THEY'VE GONE—AND LEFT THE CAMP UNPROTECTED!



THE LURKING UTE RAIDERS HIT THE COMANCHE CAMP WITH LANCES AND ARROWS...



A FEW OLD MEN, AND THE WOMEN AND BIGGER BOYS, TRY TO PUT UP A FIGHT—AND BEAR CLAW IS KNOCKED UNCONSCIOUS.

WHEN BEAR CLAW WAKES, THE
UTES ARE GONE...

MY BOW! THEY
TOOK MY BOW!



THOSE WHO REMAIN ALIVE,
WHO HAD HIDDEN IN THE
GULLIES WHEN THE UTE
CHARGED, NEED FOOD. AND
ALL LOOK TO BEAR CLAW,
MIGHTY HUNTER—WHO TRAMPS
THE MOUNTAIN TRAILS WITH-
OUT SUCCESS!

THE FIFTH TIME I'VE
MISSED! THIS BOW
IS USELESS!



THEIR EYES! THEY KEEP
STARING AT ME, WAITING FOR
FOOD! AND I CAN'T KILL
ANYTHING—WITHOUT MY
ORANGEWOOD BOW...!

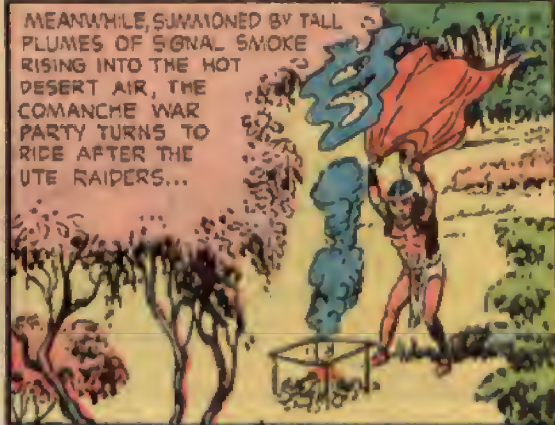


THAT NIGHT, BEAR CLAW SETS OUT ALONE,
ARMED ONLY WITH A HUNTING KNIFE...

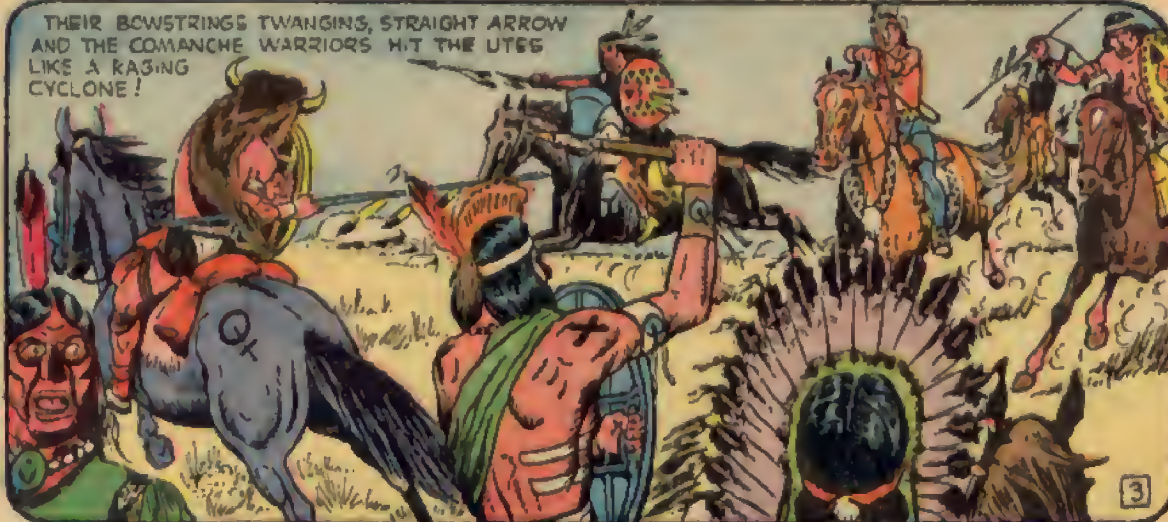
SOMEWHERE, I'LL FIND
THEM! AND I'LL BRING
BACK MY BOW OR—
DIE IN THE ATTEMPT!



MEANWHILE, SUMMONED BY TALL
PLUMES OF SIGNAL SMOKE
RISING INTO THE HOT
DESERT AIR, THE
COMANCHE WAR
PARTY TURNS TO
RIDE AFTER THE
UTE RAIDERS...



THEIR BOWSTRINGS TWANGING, STRAIGHT ARROW
AND THE COMANCHE WARRIORS HIT THE UTE
LIKE A RAGING
CYCLONE!



HIS CLUB LASHING OUT LIKE A WHIP, STRAIGHT ARROW CHARGES FULL TILT AMONG THE SCREECHING UTES—

WAI! PUNISHMENT TO THE STEALERS OF FOOD AND CHILDREN!



DEER HUNTER FIRES AS FAST AS HE CAN WHIP ARROW-SHAFT TO BOWSTRING!



RED HORSE HURLS HIS LANCE! CHARGING BUFFALO WIELDS HIS SPIKE-STUDDED CLUB!



BROKEN BY THE SUDDEN COMANCHE CHARGE, THE UTES TURN THEIR WEAPONS AGAINST THE CAPTURED COMANCHE CHILDREN



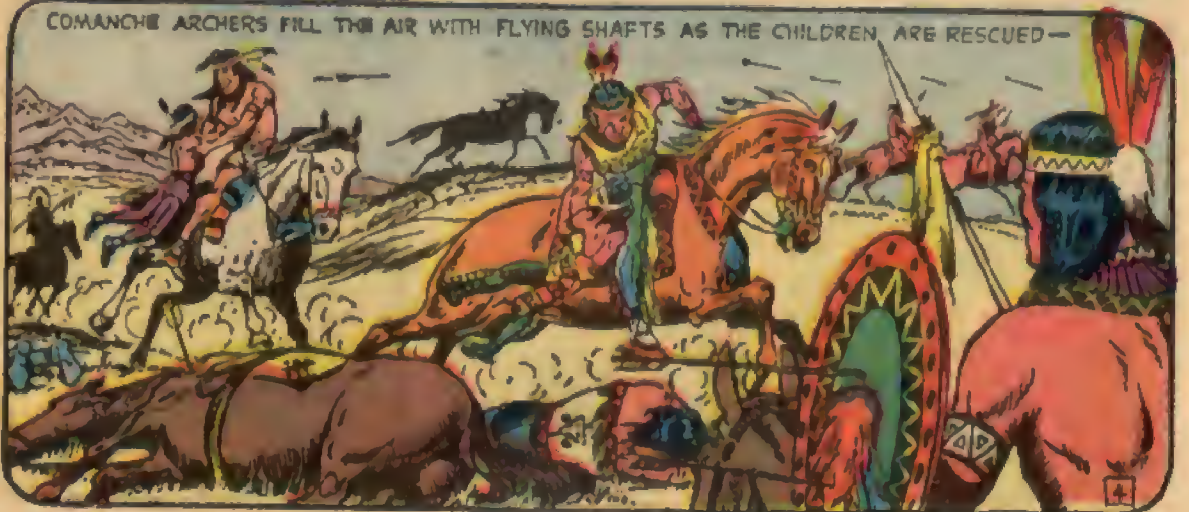
URGGH!



GRASP MY HAND! SWING UP ON FURY!



COMANCHE ARCHERS FILL THE AIR WITH FLYING SHAFTS AS THE CHILDREN ARE RESCUED—



STUNNED BY THE COMANCHE ATTACK, MADDENED BY THEIR LOSSES, THE UTES FLEE IN BITTER RAGE —



IN THIS MAD FURY, THEY RIDE DOWN UPON BEAR CLAW, SEARCHING FOR HIS ORANGE-WOOD BOW...

A LONE COMANCHE!
HE SHALL PAY FOR
WHAT HIS FELLOWS
DID!

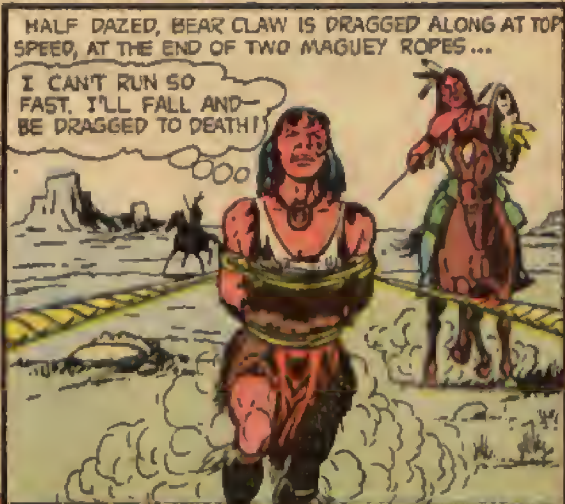


A CLUB SWINGS A VICIOUS ARC...



HALF DAZED, BEAR CLAW IS DRAGGED ALONG AT TOP SPEED, AT THE END OF TWO Maguey ROPES...

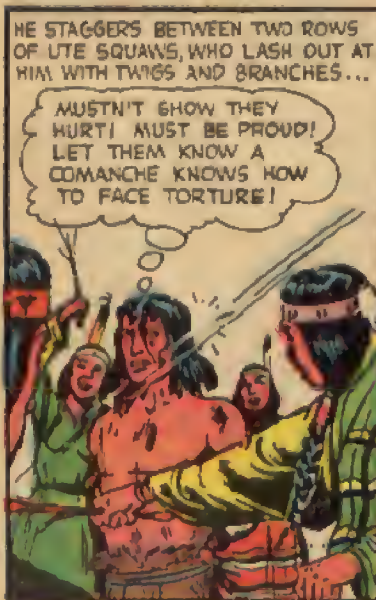
I CAN'T RUN SO
FAST, I'LL FALL AND—
BE DRAGGED TO DEATH!



HE STAGGERS BETWEEN TWO ROWS OF UTE SQUAWS, WHO LASH OUT AT HIM WITH TWIGS AND BRANCHES...

MUSTN'T SHOW THEY
HURT! MUST BE PROUD!
LET THEM KNOW A
COMANCHE KNOWS HOW
TO FACE TORTURE!

I WILL SING
MY DEATH-SONG
PROUDLY!
EVEN WHEN
THE FIRE
EATS ME, I
WILL SING!



AS THE MEDICINE MAN RISES, THE TORTURE OF BEAR CLAW BEGINS!



IN THE MEANWHILE, MILES FROM THE UTE CAMP—

HALT! FOOTPRINTS MARK THE GROUND—COMANCHE FOOTPRINTS!



I HAVE HUNTED WITH BEAR CLAW TOO LONG NOT TO KNOW HIS TRACKS WHEN I SEE THEM! HE CAME ALONE HERE, AND WENT INTO UTE COUNTRY!



IF THOSE UTES FIND BEAR CLAW, THEY WILL VENT THEIR FURY ON HIM! I RIDE AFTER HIM. YOU TAKE THE CHILDREN BACK TO CAMP!



HOURS LATER, STRAIGHT ARROW CREEPS CLOSE TO THE EDGE OF THE UTE VILLAGE...

THEY HAVE BEAR CLAW-TIED TO THEIR TORTURE STAKE!



THEN A SHIFT IN THE WIND CARRIES HIS SCENT TO THE UTE DOGS AND PONIES...

AIE! PERHAPS THE COMANCHES HAVE COME TO RESCUE THE ONE WE HAVE CAPTURED!



THERE ARE NOT MANY OF THEM. I SEE NO PONIES, NO DUST!

PERHAPS IT IS ONLY A PUMA, DOWN OFF THE HILLS, THAT FRIGHTENED THE ANIMALS!



AS THE UTE PASS BY, STRAIGHT
ARROW RISES AND STRIKES A SPARK
FROM STEEL AND FLINT...

THE ~~WIND~~ THAT
BETRAYED ME—WILL
BE MADE TO SERVE
ME!

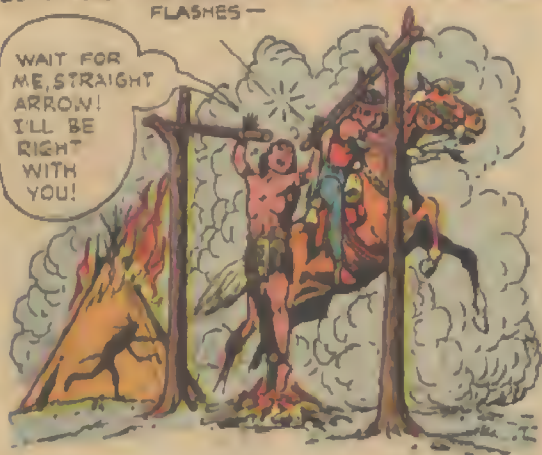


WHIPPED BY THE WIND, THE FLAMES
SWEEP DOWN ON THE VILLAGE...



HIDDEN BY SMOKE AND FLAMES, THE GREAT
COMANCHE WAR CHIEF GALLOPS IN! HIS TOMAHAWK
FLASHES—

WAIT FOR
ME, STRAIGHT
ARROW!
I'LL BE
RIGHT
WITH
YOU!



IS THIS
MAN
MAD?

WHERE
ARE YOU
GOING?

MY BOW! ONE OF MY
CAPTORS HAS IT IN HIS
TEEP! I SAW HIM
WITH IT, WHEN THEY
BROUGHT ME INTO
THEIR VILLAGE!



YOU GOT YOUR
BOW—BUT YOU
COST US THE
ADVANTAGE
OF SURPRISE!
THE UTE
ARE AFTER
US!

BUT I
HAD TO
GET MY
BOW!
WITHOUT
IT I CAN'T
HUNT!



BURDENED DOUBLE, FURY
RACES ON! BUT THE PACE
TELLS! AS THE UTE PONIES
GAIN, STRAIGHT ARROW LEAPS
FROM FURY'S BACK! HE AND
BEAR CLAW CLIMB A ROCK
RIDGE...

WE CAN HOLD
THEM OFF FROM
HERE— BUT
NOT FOR
LONG!



IF ONLY WE COULD
SIGNAL OUR PEOPLE!
THE COMANCHES
WILL HAVE BROUGHT
THE CAPTURED
CHILDREN HOME BY
THIS TIME. THEY WILL
BE LOOKING
FOR US!

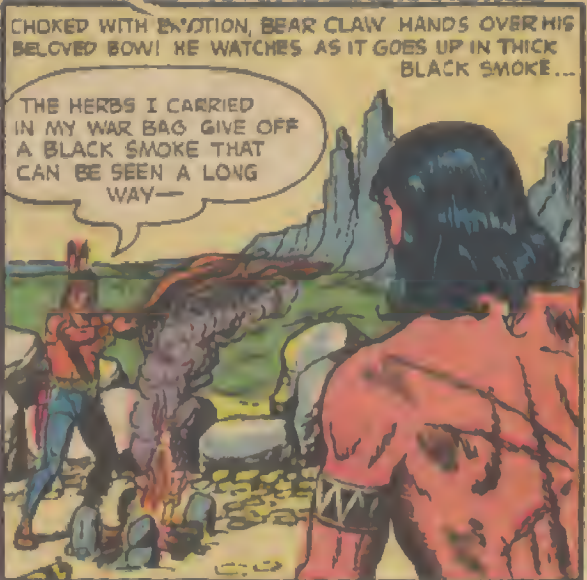
BUT WE
HAVE NO
WOOD
WITH
WHICH TO
START A
FIRE!





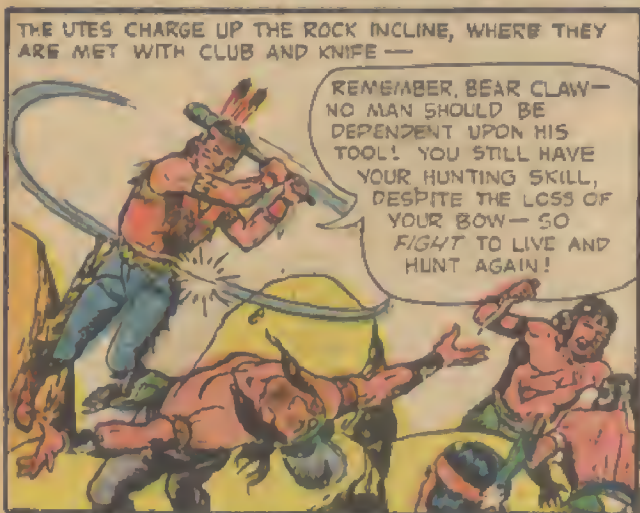
WE HAVE OUR BOWS, BEAR CLAW! WILL YOU GIVE UP YOUR BOW TO SAVE OUR LIVES?

I-I-



CHOKED WITH EMOTION, BEAR CLAW HANDS OVER HIS BELOVED BOW! HE WATCHES AS IT GOES UP IN THICK BLACK SMOKE...

THE HERBS I CARRIED IN MY WAR BAG GIVE OFF A BLACK SMOKE THAT CAN BE SEEN A LONG WAY—



THE UTES CHARGE UP THE ROCK INCLINE, WHERE THEY ARE MET WITH CLUB AND KNIFE —

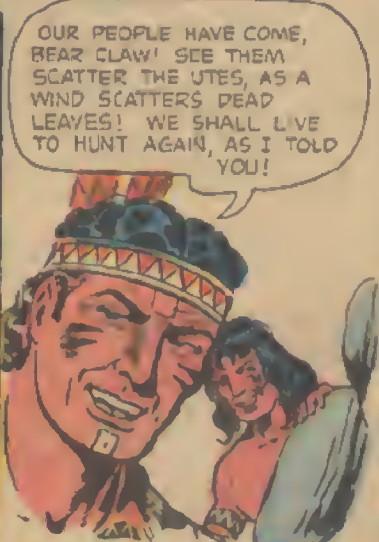
REMEMBER, BEAR CLAW— NO MAN SHOULD BE DEPENDENT UPON HIS TOOL! YOU STILL HAVE YOUR HUNTING SKILL, DESPITE THE LOSS OF YOUR BOW— SO FIGHT TO LIVE AND HUNT AGAIN!



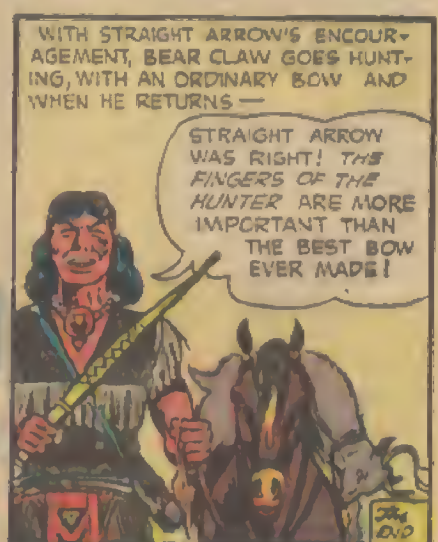
NO USE TOO MANY OF THEM!



AND THEN A DOZEN WAR ARROWS FLASH IN THE SKY! THE COMANCHE WAR WHOOP SOUNDS.



OUR PEOPLE HAVE COME, BEAR CLAW! SEE THEM SCATTER THE UTES, AS A WIND SCATTERS DEAD LEAVES! WE SHALL LIVE TO HUNT AGAIN, AS I TOLD YOU!



WITH STRAIGHT ARROW'S ENCOURAGEMENT, BEAR CLAW GOES HUNTING, WITH AN ORDINARY BOW AND WHEN HE RETURNS —

STRAIGHT ARROW WAS RIGHT! THE FINGERS OF THE HUNTER ARE MORE IMPORTANT THAN THE BEST BOW EVER MADE!



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